

22 April 1947

For release WEDNESDAY -- April 23rd

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But that is the case of a tall, well-dressed and distinguished looking 46-year old law school senior at Suffolk University.

Joseph B. O'Keefe, who served as mayor of Peabody for seven years, preceded by three years in the city council, was surprised to find that his classmates had voted him as their class leader at Suffolk University School of Law last week.

"I've received many thrills from my political triumphs in public life," the ex-mayor, who has been married 25 years and has an attractive 19-year old daughter, said, "but I was very deeply touched and elated when my fellow students honored me as their class president."

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-NOTE-



Success in politics is not new in the O'Keefe household---- the Suffolk law senior's uncle served as mayor of Salem about thirty years ago, and his dad was elected to the Salem common council about a half century ago.

Former Mayor O'Keefe was born in Salem, but moved and attended school in Peabody. He was a leather worker in a tannery when he scored his initial success in politics with his election to the city council.

He enrolled at Suffolk University in 1942 while still holding office as chief executive of Peabody.

"Anyone concerned with public life should have a legal background," he asserted. "It gives a better appreciation and broader viewpoint of human problems and understanding of the increasing complexity of our governmental agencies and functions."

The former Peabody mayor served until 1945, and is now a sales executive for an oil and coal firm when not pouring over legal tomes.

His only hobby is golf, and considers himself lucky when he breaks the 100's. His immediate goal is to get his sheepskin this June and then take the Massachusetts Bar examination.

He intends to practice law and is undecided on his future political plans. Meanwhile, he is engrossed with his duties as chief executive of his senior class.



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